



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NUTRO MAKES PROGRESS TOWARDS ADDRESSING
NEIGHBORS' ODOR CONCERNS
MITIGATION PLAN DUE BY END OF JUNE**

Victorville -- Nutro Products representatives met yesterday with officials from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD), in an effort to get a head start on tending to numerous odor complaints lodged by residents living in east Victorville and Spring Valley Lake in recent weeks. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the MDAQMD with a preview of preliminary findings which have been unearthed as a result of the odor mitigation studies and abatement plan the pet food company has been ordered to undertake by the local air agency. The final plan is due to the MDAQMD by June 30, 2006.

Nutro has retained the consulting services of AWR Engineering and Odor Science & Engineering to assist with pinpointing odor sources and identifying abatement options. Already, some unanticipated sources of odor have been discovered. One such source is moist exhaust from a steam-heated extruder, which is a piece of equipment used to cook and size pet food pellets. While exhaust from the extruder is vented back into the building, the consultants

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have discovered that some of this steam may actually be seeping to the outside through vents located on the upwind side of the building. Additionally, the consultants have determined that roof vents for several liquid ingredient tanks housed within the facility may also represent a significant source of odor.

Initially, it was believed that the primary source of the odors were the twin 41” diameter stacks, each of which serves a separate process line. However, with several other point sources having been identified, Nutro’s odor abatement plan is likely to include the installation of control equipment at several points within the facility.

Odors originating from the extruder and the roof vents are expected to be abated within six to eight weeks. This timeframe is necessary to allow sufficient time for engineering, purchase, installation and testing of the control equipment, which is expected to be a condensing filtration system on the extruder and a carbon adsorption system on the roof vents. According to MDAQMD Supervising Air Quality Engineer Alan De Salvio, the District has given Nutro a preliminary go-ahead to proceed with these solutions, which are expected to completely and permanently eliminate odors from these two sources. “Nutro is giving these solutions very high priority; purchase orders may be cut as early as next Monday,” stated De Salvio, adding that any solution approved and permitted by the District must be “safe, permanent and adequate to abate the odors experienced in residential areas to a non-detectable level.”

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While any odors emanating from Nutro's two stacks will also have to be abated, this solution will take somewhat longer, due to the nature and location of the stacks. According to De Salvio, a more accurate mitigation timeline will be determined once the odor abatement plan has been reviewed by the MDAQMD.

De Salvio emphasized that while odors from the facility pose an odor nuisance to neighboring residents, there are no toxic or hazardous emissions associated with the plant, which accepts only pasteurized food products, such as ground up chicken and lamb. He also indicated that the proposed installation of a third process line at the Victorville plant will not receive the MDAQMD's approval until the current odor problem has been mitigated, and plans for preventing similar future problems have been fine-tuned.

Residents wishing to register air quality concerns regarding this or any other High Desert facility are encouraged to call the MDAQMD's Complaint Line at (800) 635-4617. Residents may also call Nutro's Community Response Line at (760) 241-9480.

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